

REMARKS

In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, reconsideration of the rejections contained in the Office Action of March 29, 2010 is respectfully requested.

By this Amendment, claim 1 has been amended and new claim 13 has been added. Thus, claims 1 and 13 are currently pending in the application. No new matter has been added by these amendments.

On pages 2-3 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Sugimoto et al. (JP 2002-008524). For the reasons discussed below, it is respectfully submitted that the present claims are clearly patentable over the prior art of record.

The discussion of the invention provided below makes reference to the specification of the present application. However, these references are made only for the Examiner's benefit, and are not intended to limit the claims.

The present invention is directed to a plasma display panel in which an inner space is formed between a protective layer of the front panel and the phosphor layer, barrier rib and base dielectric layer of the back panel, with the front panel and the back panel being disposed so as to confront each other and being sealed at their outer walls. Further, a first catalyst (which accelerates oxidization of a hydrocarbon) and a second catalyst (which accelerates decomposition of the hydrocarbon) are provided on at least one of the barrier rib and the phosphor layer so as to be exposed to the inner space. As discussed on page 6 of the original specification, hydrocarbons generated during the manufacturing of the plasma display panel remain in the inner space once the plasma display panel is completed, and these hydrocarbons in the inner space cause the deterioration of the picture quality. Accordingly, the catalysts are provided on at least one of the barrier rib and the phosphor layer *so as to be exposed to the inner space* in order to reduce the quantity of hydrocarbons in the inner space.

Independent claim 1 recites a plasma display panel comprising a front panel including a display electrode, a dielectric layer and a protective layer sequentially formed on a first glass substrate, and a back panel including an address electrode, a base dielectric layer, a barrier rib and a phosphor layer sequentially formed on a second glass substrate, with the front panel and the back panel being disposed so as to confront each other and being sealed at the outer walls so

as to form an inner space between the protective layer of the front panel and the phosphor layer, barrier rib and base dielectric layer of the back panel.

The plasma display panel of claim 1 also includes *a first catalyst and a second catalyst provided on at least one of the barrier rib and the phosphor layer so as to be exposed to the inner space and react with a hydrocarbon existing in the inner space*. Further, claim 1 recites that *the first catalyst is at least one of a catalyst which accelerates oxidization of the hydrocarbon* and is selected from the group consisting of Pd, Pt, Rh, Co₃O₄, PdO, Cr₂O₃, Mn₂O₃, CoO, and NiO, and that *the second catalyst accelerates decomposition of the hydrocarbon* and is selected from the group consisting of Co, Ti and Ni.

Sugimoto discloses a plasma display panel which, as shown in Fig. 2, includes a back panel 12, a front panel 14, ribs 16 and a phosphor layer 24. Further, Sugimoto discloses that the ribs 16 are formed by baking a rib-precursor compact obtained by hardening a light-sensitive glass-ceramic paste. In this regard, Sugimoto discloses that the light-sensitive paste should preferably include an oxidation catalyst in order to reduce the temperature required for burning off the binder component when forming the rib.

However, Sugimoto does not disclose a first catalyst and a second catalyst provided on at least one of the barrier rib and the phosphor layer *so as to be exposed to the inner space and react with a hydrocarbon existing in the inner space*, as required by independent claim 1. In particular, it is first noted that claim 1 recites that the “inner space” is formed between the protective layer of the front panel and the phosphor layer, barrier rib and base dielectric layer of the back panel once the front and back panels are arranged to confront each other and are sealed at outer walls with a sealing member.

In this regard, Sugimoto only discloses an oxidation catalyst provided in the light-sensitive paste used in forming the ribs, but does not disclose that using the paste having the oxidation catalyst to form the ribs results in the oxidation catalyst being exposed to the inner space (*i.e.*, the space formed after the ribs are formed and the front and back panels are sealed together).

Further, Sugimoto does not disclose that *a first catalyst which accelerates oxidization of the hydrocarbon and a second catalyst which accelerates decomposition of the hydrocarbon* are provided in at least one of the barrier rib and the phosphor layer, as required by independent claim 1. Rather, Sugimoto only discloses an oxidation catalyst for reducing the temperature

required for burning off the binder component when forming the rib, and does not disclose that the oxidation catalyst is a first catalyst which accelerates oxidization of the hydrocarbon. Further, Sugimoto does not disclose a second catalyst which accelerates decomposition of the hydrocarbon.

Accordingly, as Sugimoto does not disclose a first catalyst and a second catalyst provided on at least one of the barrier rib and the phosphor layer so as to be exposed to the inner space and react with a hydrocarbon existing in the inner space, in which the first catalyst is at least one of a catalyst which accelerates oxidization of the hydrocarbon and the second catalyst accelerates decomposition of the hydrocarbon, as required by claim 1, it is respectfully submitted that Sugimoto does not anticipate independent claim 1.

Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that independent claim 1, as well as claim 13 which depends therefrom, are clearly allowable over the prior art of record.

In addition, the Examiner's attention is directed to the dependent claims which further define the present invention over the prior art. In particular, dependent claim 13 recites that the first catalyst and the second catalyst are both provided on the barrier rib and on the phosphor layer so as to be exposed to the inner space and react with the hydrocarbon existing in the inner space. In this regard, it is noted that Sugimoto only discloses an oxidation catalyst contained in the barrier rib, and does not disclose that a first catalyst and a second catalyst are both provided on the barrier rib and on the phosphor layer so as to be exposed to the inner space and react with the hydrocarbon existing in the inner space, as required by dependent claim 13. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that Sugimoto does not anticipate claim 13.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is clearly in condition for allowance. An early notice to that effect is respectfully solicited.

If, after reviewing this Amendment, the Examiner feels there are any issues remaining which must be resolved before the application can be passed to issue, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned by telephone in order to resolve such issues.

Respectfully submitted,

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